

SOUTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 6, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **McKelle Meek of Southridge High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Meek is the third Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Southridge High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Meek as Oregon's best high school girls basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Basketball Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Meek joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Maya Moore (2005-06 Collins Hill High School, Ga.), Rashanda McCants (2004-05, Asheville High School, N.C.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central High School, Ill.), Diana Taurasi (1998-99 & 1999-00, Don Antonio Lugo High School, Calif.), Shyra Ely (1999-00, Ben Davis High School, Ind.), Katie Smith (1991-92, Logan High School, Ohio) and Lisa Leslie (1988-89, Morningside High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 senior guard led the Skyhawks to a 17-6 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Meek averaged 23.3 points, 3.1 rebounds, 2.6 steals and 2.5 assists through 23 games. The Metro League Player of the Year, Meek was an All-State honorable mention selection as a junior. She entered the postseason with 1,318 points in her prep basketball career.

Meek has volunteered locally with the non-profit organization With Love, which provides clothing and supplies to foster families. She has also donated her time as part of the community-beautification projects and as a youth basketball coach. "McKelle Meek is a tough competitor," said Katy Wilson, head coach of Aloha High. "She has a big impact. She is a leader and controls the game."

Meek has maintained a weighted 4.13 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Portland this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Meek joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Basketball Players of the Year Cameron Brink (2018-19 & 2017-18, Southridge High School), Evina Westbrook (2016-17 & 2015-16, South Salem High School), Katie McWilliams (2014-15, South Salem High School), and Jaime Nared (2013-14, Westview High School) as athletes who have won the basketball award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Meek also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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